

RESOLUTION NO. 2022/17

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANTIOCH
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FORWARD A RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY
REPORT NO. 2105 – “IMPROVING ANIMAL SERVICES IN CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY”**

WHEREAS, the City of Antioch received Grand Jury Report No. 2105 “Improving Animal Services in Contra Costa County”;

WHEREAS, a written response to the Grand Jury is required under California Penal Code; and

WHEREAS, a written response to the Grand Jury has been drafted and reviewed by the City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Antioch hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign the written response to the Grand Jury Report No. 2105 – “Improving Animal Services in Contra Costa County” which is attached to this Resolution as “Exhibit 1.”

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Antioch, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 8th day of February 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members District 1 Torres-Walker, District 3 Ogorchock, District 4 Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem (District 2) Barbanica, and Mayor Thorpe

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



ELIZABETH HOUSEHOLDER
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF ANTIOCH

ANTIOCH CALIFORNIA

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Rebecca Hardie
Presiding Judge
Contra Costa County Superior Court
Wakefield-Taylor Court Building, Department 1
725 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 2105: “Improving Animal Services in Contra Costa County”

Dear Judge Hardie:

On behalf of the Antioch City Council, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report: “Improving Animal Services in Contra Costa County.” The City Council authorized this response at its meeting on February 8, 2022. Pursuant to California Penal Code § 933.05, the City is responding to the applicable findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS

Finding # 1: There is a need for improved animal services throughout the County.

Response The City agrees with this finding.

Finding # 3: AAS Volunteers are often not assigned specific tasks and lack direction.

Response The City disagrees with this finding.

During the COVID pandemic, the volunteer program was suspended due to the shelter in place orders. The volunteer program was relaunched in August of 2021 with a new online volunteer management software platform (Volunteer Impact) in place to provide structure to the volunteer program. Volunteers must meet training and participation benchmarks before they are allowed to perform progressively skilled volunteer opportunities. Volunteer scheduling, tracking of volunteer hours and volunteer training opportunities are all integrated components of the new software.

Finding # 4: AAS does not have funding for a Volunteer Coordinator / Community Outreach staff position.



Response The City agrees with this finding.

Finding # 9: Additional vaccination and spay and neuter clinics would reduce the number of homeless and surrendered animals in the shelters.

Response The City agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: The Antioch City Council allocate funding to fill the staff position of Volunteer Coordinator / Community Outreach at AAS.

Response The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the near future.

Although the City does not currently have funding for full-time Volunteer Coordinator / Community Outreach staff, the City is in the process of hiring part-time staff to address these roles within the department. Hiring for these part-time positions is expected to be completed within 90 days.

R2: AAS improve volunteer training.

Response This recommendation has already been implemented:

The new volunteer management software implemented in August 2021 includes a learning management system integrated into the software. Volunteers are able to access and complete training modules within the system. Completing specific training opportunities allows participants to expand the number of volunteer opportunities available for them to complete. The monthly in-person volunteer meetings also contain a training component.

R10: AAS and CCAS explore sharing of resources for low-cost animal care clinics in the eastern part of the County.

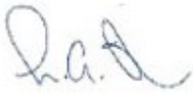
Response This recommendation requires further analysis.

The City recognizes the value of collaboration with other animal welfare organizations and would direct AAS to work with CCAS when doing so will benefit the pets and citizens of Antioch. Additionally, the City will direct AAS to conduct a needs assessment to determine if the current Animal Shelter meets the current animal care needs and develop a plan for future needs of AAS. This study will look at infrastructure and personnel requirements to ensure the City of Antioch is able to maintain the highest level of care for the pets handled by AAS. The inclusion of a low-cost spay and neuter clinic, and expansion of animal control services to include parts of Eastern Contra Costa County should also be part of the future needs assessment.



We trust the Grand Jury will find these responses helpful to its endeavor.

Sincerely yours,



Lamar A. Thorpe
Mayor, City of Antioch

Samil Beret, Contra Costa County Grand Jury Foreperson, 725 Court Street, Martinez, CA 94553
Cornelius H. Johnson, Interim City Manager
Thomas Lloyd Smith, City Attorney

